

**Senate File 337 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 337

BY SHIPLEY

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requiring the installation and maintenance of train  
2 defect detectors on railways, and providing penalties.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1     Section 1.   NEW SECTION.   **327F.6 Defect detectors.**

2     1. A railroad company shall install and maintain at least  
3 one defect detector every fifty miles on or along the railways  
4 upon which the company operates a train. Railroad companies  
5 that operate on the same railway may jointly share the costs  
6 associated with installing and maintaining defect detectors  
7 under this subsection.

8     2. A railroad company that operates a train on a railway  
9 that does not have a defect detector installed and maintained  
10 in accordance with subsection 1 is subject to a schedule "one"  
11 penalty under section 327C.5 for every mile of the railway that  
12 is more than fifty miles away from a defect detector.

13    3. Railroad companies that operate on the same railway  
14 are jointly and severally liable in any suit arising from the  
15 installation and maintenance of all defect detectors, or lack  
16 thereof, on or along the railway.

17    4. As used in this section, "*defect detector*" means a  
18 device, regardless of whether the device is integrated into  
19 the railway, equipped with sensors that detect axle and brake  
20 abnormalities on a passing train and alert the train operator  
21 of any detected abnormality.

22                                   EXPLANATION

23                   The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
24                   the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

25     This bill requires a railroad company to install and  
26 maintain at least one defect detector, as defined in the  
27 bill, every 50 miles on or along the railways upon which the  
28 company's trains operate. Railroad companies that operate  
29 trains on the same railway may share such costs and are jointly  
30 and severally liable in any suit arising from the installation  
31 and maintenance of all defect detectors, or lack thereof, on or  
32 along the railway.

33     A railroad company that operates a train on a railway that  
34 does not have a defect detector installed every 50 miles is  
35 subject to a schedule "one" penalty under Code section 327C.5

S.F. 337

1 for every mile of the railway that is more than 50 miles away  
2 from a defect detector. A schedule "one" penalty is a fine of  
3 \$100 per violation.